

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Recreational Anglers Board
Application for Funding

Applicant: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

Contact: Ann Stephenson (360-696-6211 ext. 6866), Cindy Le Fleur (360-906-6708)

Proposal Title: Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Fund
Administrative Coordinator - **renewal**

Type of Proposal: Partial funding of a WDFW Biologist 3 position (30%) is requested to supplement the technical assistance to administer the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program.

Date of Submission: December 21, 2015

Effective Period of Funding: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Amount of Funding Requested: \$ 29,300

Activity to be funded: This request would cover up to 3.6 months (30%) of the salary and benefits of a WDFW Biologist 3 position with travel, goods and services as they relate to the administration of the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program.

Status Summary: This is the renewal of a proposal approved the last four years. The funding was decreased roughly \$2,300 in 2013 due to known expenses of current staff. This year's funding request increases the amount from the previous request of \$27,201 to \$29,300 to cover the increase in cost of salary and benefits for a WDFW Biologist 3. This also includes a 1.9% state cost of living increase for FY2016. There is a decrease in goods and services of \$1,240.

Background: In 2011, a vacancy in WDFW's Fish Program Conservation Biology Unit created the opportunity to combine funding for an Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Coordinator position to coordinate the pressing needs of several high profile salmon recovery activities with CRSSE funds to administrate the dedicated CRSSE fund for recreational fisheries. During 2012, the scope of work and funding for the Recovery Coordinator position expanded, leaving little time to focus on the CRSSE fund. The difficulties WDFW has encountered in the administration of the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program (CRSSE Program) still remain.

Originally, up to 40% of the Upper Columbia River Endangered Species Act (UCR ESA) Biologist position (Mike Tonseth) was requested and approved for CRSSE Program funding to develop and maintain all applicable permits associated with fisheries having

ESA impacts in the upper Columbia River. In addition to these fisheries associated responsibilities, the position included the administration of the newly created CRSSE Program. WDFW originally estimated a month of time total would be necessary for CRSSE Program administration. Review of these activities once the program was fully initiated revealed that over two months are annually expended by the UCR ESA Biologist position alone, and significant additional time was also required of the Regional Fish Program Manager. The additional administrative tasks for the CRSSE Program have proved excessive for this position and severely impact the ability to complete the requisite permitting tasks associated with the UCR ESA Biologist position.

A WDFW Biologist 3 position has been identified for 2016 to coordinate the CRSSE fund activities. The original proposal to combine funding necessitated a Natural Resource Scientist position to deal with the salmon recovery aspects of the job; however, the new proposal takes advantage of a WDFW Biologist 3 for which the position criteria are better aligned with the administrative tasks necessary to the CRSSE fund activities.

WDFW has been largely successful in achieving the results intended by the Legislature for the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program (CRSSE Program); however, there have been considerable unintended impacts to other activities important to recovery and fisheries. The CRSSE Program has performed above expectations as a revenue generator, and WDFW highly values this asset during these difficult economic times. WDFW also recognizes that additional tasks are incumbent upon the agency to enhance the perception of CRSSE Program for the CRSSRAB, the Legislature, and constituents. Some expected examples are post-project reports and the December 1, 2014 report to the Legislature.

Proposed Activity:

To meet the expectations outlined above, WDFW requests funding for 3.6 months of the proposed WDFW Biologist 3 position to be spent on activities requisite to administering the CRSSE Program. WDFW expects an enhanced ability to provide communications with CRSSRAB and produce the essential products necessary to promote and continue the CRSSE Program.

The UCR ESA Biologist position retains oversight and CRSSRAB point contact for the continuity of the program. The WDFW Biologist 3 position will assist in budget monitoring, proposal review, reporting, public relations, data/records management, meeting preparation, and internal WDFW coordination activities related to the CRSSE Program.

Assistance Required:

WDFW requests funding for 3.6 months (30%) of the salary and benefits for the WDFW Biologist 3 position and some travel and goods and services as they relate to the administration of the CRSSE Program.

Budget Summary:

WDFW Biologist 3:	30% FTE; 3.6 months			
FY2016	July 2016-June 2017			
		Amount	Months	Total
	Salaries and Benefits Step M	\$7,750	3.6	\$27,900
	Personnel services, phone,			
Goods and Services	etc.	\$200	4.0	\$800
Travel	Hotel, per diem, mileage	\$300	2.0	\$600
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Total Funding Request				\$29, 300

Need for Proposed Activity: WDFW underestimated the extent of CRSSE Program administration, and the additional administrative tasks have severely impacted the ability to complete the requisite permitting tasks associated with the UCR ESA Biologist position. WDFW also recognizes that additional tasks are incumbent upon the agency to enhance the perception of CRSSE Program for the CRSSRAB, the Legislature, and constituents. Funding is needed to complete the critical tasks of administrating the CRSSE program fund.

Benefit of Proposed Activity: WDFW expects an enhanced ability to provide communications with CRSSRAB and produce the essential products necessary to promote and continue the CRSSE Program. Administrative tasks such as budget monitoring, proposal review, reporting, public relations, data/records management, meeting preparation, and internal DFW coordination activities related to the CRSSE Program will be completed in an efficient and timely manner. Additional tasks can be accommodated, thereby improving the CRSSE Program overall. The UCR ESA Biologist position would retain oversight and CRSSRAB point contact for continuity.

Additional Considerations: Also, the 2016 proposal for UCR ESU Biologist allows the UCR ESU Biologist to effectively complete fisheries related activities related to the CRSSE Program as originally conceived.